

IRAQI DESTINY

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Iraqi police in North trained, ready

Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

The police of northern Iraq are getting a little taste of boot camp from the U.S. Army's military police.

The 3rd Platoon, 101st MP Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), is sending police into towns near the Syrian border. The two-week training course, teaches them tactics, techniques and procedures.

The MPs began conducting the training courses after seeing the police forces' need for a change from operations as conducted under the Ba'ath Party.

"Their style wasn't proactive about stopping crime," said 2nd Lt. Sandy Bucher of Cleveland, Ohio, 3rd Plt. 101st MP Co. "Before, they would wait for reports to be made to them before they would respond to anything."

"We're teaching them to operate off of ethics and values, and not the fear tactics used in the past," Bucher said.

The MPs hope the community benefits from seeing the police trained as well.

"All the training is done so the community sees the coalition forces are training them," Bucher said. "We want the community to see these aren't the same old cops; this is a newly trained force."

"The police seem to like the training," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hlasnicek of West Palm Beach, Fla., 3rd Plt. 101st MP Co.

The training team from 3rd Plt. held their first school for the police of Rabiaya, followed by the current graduating class from Senooni.



Spc. Blake Kent

A soldier from 3rd Plt., 101st MP Co., 101st Abn. Div. (AAst.), helps a Sanooni policeman attach his new brassard, which he received after completing a two week MP-run training session.

The Sanooni police department has 50 police officers, but there is very little crime in the farming community.

"It doesn't seem like they have much crime here at all," Bucher said. "Land disputes are the main problem."

The training was strenuous, covering police procedure, levels of force, ethics,

weapons training, hand-to-hand tactics, filling reports and physical training.

"At 6:30 a.m. we would do PT with them," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Barnes of Franklin, Tenn., 3rd Plt., 101st MP Co. "Most haven't done anything that

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Division to celebrate July fourth at Saddam's former palace

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the Coalition's most northern force, plans to celebrate American Independence Day in grand style at the Division Headquarters in Mosul.

Soldiers of the 101st and Coalition partners, as well as prominent citizens of Mosul, will be treated to a barbecue

feast followed by a significant moral-boosting event: Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), plans to administer the oath of reenlistment to more than 160 Screaming Eagle soldiers at 7 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., the Screaming Eagle Band is scheduled to perform a concert

for the soldiers and guests.

The Division Headquarters, located in Northwest Mosul directly off the Dohuk highway, is situated in one of the former regime's palace buildings overlooking the Tigris.

Contributed by Division PAO

Military women struggle, overcome barriers

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Last week, as part of the Iraqi Destiny's "Man on the Street" segment (which we aptly titled "Woman on the Street") we asked random female soldiers "What obstacles do women in the military face that men don't?" The responses were nearly identical every time.

"We have power struggles that men don't have." "(Men) treat you different...they set you apart." "Some men don't think we can do what they can do."

Only one soldier interviewed for the segment did not air grievances about a perceived gender inequity in the Army (she raised issues she'd been having with field latrines).

The naive and skeptical may still be naive and skeptical, but some women in the military are unhappy about gender equality, or the lack thereof, in the United States Armed Forces.

More than 164,000 women are currently serving in the United States Military according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In a report filed by the Senate Armed Services committee, 15 percent of military are women, up from 4 percent just after the Vietnam War.

Has the increase in women in uniform meant a change in culture in the military?

"The military is by nature a male dominated work force," said Lt. Col. Kristin Shafer of Mill Hall, Penn., commander, 311th Military Intelligence Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "It seems to me that (women) have to prove themselves a little bit more than their male counterparts."

Shafer, who calls herself "the only battalion commander on post that has to drop off her kids at daycare after PT in the morning," said she always felt accepted in the military but added that "physical limitations" inhibit her and other women in uniform from progressing up the ranks both as an officer and

as an enlisted soldier.

The 311th MI commander is married to a former soldier and holds the highest pay grade in the 101st Airborne Division of any woman.

Is she disappointed that a woman is not posted at any brigade level commands or even division level commands?

"You have to be a war fighter to command a division," Shafer said. "I've known a few women who could hang with the infantry. They're very few, like two."

Women are currently prohibited from serving in the infantry.

Shafer cited Lt. Col. Laura Richardson, commander, 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, a 101st pilot who was profiled in a Time Magazine article "When Mom Goes to War," as a soldier who could one day become a brigade or even division commander.

For enlisted soldiers, the challenge remains. "The fact that females aren't allowed in certain (Military Operational Skills)," said Pfc. Evelyn Soto of Vegaalta, Puerto Rico, "that's not fair."

Sulfur plant fires force evacuations south of Mosul

Firefighters and engineers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are working to extinguish a fire that erupted June 26 in a sulfur plant in Qayyarah, a small city south of Mosul, damaging the plant and killing at least one person.

The brigade reported the fire is contained and it will be extinguished in three to four days.

Soldiers from the division's 1st

Brigade Combat Team evacuated civilians from the vicinity of the fire and the areas downwind of the plant.

Elements of the division's 326th Engineer Battalion and the 938th Fire Fighting Detachment from New York are working around the clock with bulldozers, fire trucks and other fire fighting equipment to contain the blaze.

A shelter was established in Qayyarah for displaced persons. As of Thursday

evening approximately 60 people were evacuated.

According to division medical personnel, the sulfuric smoke is a danger to all, but especially to the elderly, asthmatic and young children. An elderly woman died on the night of June 26 from smoke related complications.

Contributed by Division PAO

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physical before, so it was a bit difficult for them. We trained them with sprints, push-ups and sit-ups."

The police would train until 5 or 6 p.m. each night and then would still have night patrols to conduct.

The police are also learning to use levels of force instead of violence to solve every problem.

"We've broken it down to five levels of force, which mirror our levels of force," Hlasnicek said "They're being taught military police doctrine when it comes to tactics and techniques."

According to Barnes, the five levels of force taught were: verbal persuasion, unarmed self-defense, the use of riot batons, presentation of deadly force and deadly force.

According to Barnes, the hardest thing to teach was ethics training.

"I went straight off the Army values card teaching them the ethics of their job," Barnes said. "We broke it down into situations to explain what and why the ethics of police officers are important. In the past, they supplemented their pay with bribes because they weren't paid on a regular basis. That's why it's very important for them to have the ethics training."

Policemen will also get a new look along with their new training. They are



photos by Spc. Blake Kent

Soldiers of 3rd Plt., 101st MP Co., 101st Abn. Div. (AAst.), hand out new uniforms to the Sanooni police force. The police received the uniforms upon completing a two-week training course conducted by the MPs.

changing their uniforms from military green to a light blue shirt with gray pants and new boots.

"The new uniform is standard across the country. All the police should eventually have it," Bucher said. "Once they're trained they will be issued the uniform."

Issuing uniforms might be a problem for the people of Sanooni. They are of the Yeziti faith therefore wearing blue is not permitted.

The officers at the Sanooni police station were issued neck ties, pistol belts, brassards, rank and boots.

Some of them received their uniform pants as well, but the MPs are still working on getting the police the sizes they need.

The police are also changing to new weapons, which were provided by the MPs.

"Some of the police have AK-47s, but we're issuing SKS semi-automatic rifles to them as well," Hlasnicek said. "The SKS shoots the same

caliber bullet as the AK, but is semi-automatic. We don't want the police to be carrying automatic weapons, but they aren't very excited about the SKS."

In addition to the new equipment, the station has received a lot of revamping from the MPs.

"They had nothing when we got here, no electricity, no doors and no weapons racks," Barnes said.

The MPs helped fund the restoration of the police station, paying locals to do the work in order to put money back into the community.

The station was also equipped with night sticks, flashlights and basic office supplies.

No further training is being planned by the MPs for their police academy graduates, but the MPs do plan on making a few regular visits.

"We will be showing up sporadically to do joint patrols with the police to make sure they're doing the right thing," Hlasnicek said.

The MPs are planning a third and final class to be held in Tal-Afar, teaching more than 300 new policemen in that city.



Brig. Gen. Michael Helmick and Col. Michael Linnington congratulate a graduate of the Sanooni police training conducted by the 3rd Platoon, 101st MP Co., 101st Abn. Div. (AAst.).

431st CA, World Food Program help stabilize local agricultural economy

Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The Mosul economy, heavily dependent on the annual wheat harvest, is in the process of averting potential collapse with the help of the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion's Food and Agriculture team, the Coalition Provisional Authority and the United Nations supported World Food Program.

More than 80 percent of this year's wheat harvest has been infected with fungus and is no longer edible, according to Capt. Blake Hamm of Midland, Texas, 431st Food and Agriculture team leader. "What we've done is try to control and contain this year's problem," he said.

The contaminated harvest, absolutely worthless to consumers, will be bought by the Coalition Provisional Authority at \$75 per metric ton, a reduced price from the \$105 per metric ton paid for the uncontaminated harvest.

The 431st CA team will be ordering a sufficient supply of Diathyne for the Ninevah province, a pesticide that should prevent rampant infections of next year's harvest.

There are roughly 3.15 million acres of wheat and barley land in the Ninevah province. The CPA's actions, according to Hamm, will ensure "the farmers will get paid for their crops."

Meanwhile, the WFP has been busy actively importing massive supplies of cooking oil, wheat, rice, lentils, tea and soap to areas of Iraq they couldn't reach before the fall of Saddam.

The WFP could not operate south of Kurdish occupied territories in Iraq before Operation Iraqi Freedom; now they are working closely with the Iraqi Ministry of Trade to distribute food at distribution points throughout Mosul and the Ninevah Province.

"All of the items distributed through the food agents, are purchased by the World Food Program," Hamm said.

More than 3,000 food agents are operating throughout the Ninevah province. Distribution points carry lists of families with the number of residents per household.

Families exchange tickets for their ration of food and supplies.

The 431st CA Food and Agricultural team is also actively overseeing the food distribution process.

Local citizens have registered complaints that they are not receiving the

food promised them by the WFP from food agents.

"Eventually (Mosul) won't have to rely on the World Food Program," Hamm said. "We want them to be able to do everything on their own. Then we can go home."



Pfc. Thomas Day

A local worker measures a bag of lentils for distribution to a local family. The food was imported by the World Food Program.

Peshmerga treated by U.S. Army Docs

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

A group of U.S. Army doctors flew to Dohuk June 29 to examine and diagnose 70 Peshmerga soldiers who had sustained injuries during the fight for Iraq's freedom.

The doctors acted as intermediaries between the patients and local physicians, recommending treatments and offering pointers.

"We can't operate on them because we would be held responsible if something went wrong," said Capt. Mark Hurd, Company C, 526th Forward Support Battalion.

"We bring in doctors with specialties who can recommend less invasive treatment; it's the same as back in the states."

Most of the doctors in Iraq are general practitioners who don't have much specialization, according to Hurd.

The injuries sustained by the Peshmerga are varied, ranging from head injuries to

arm and leg wounds.

Their wounds had healed to an extent, but many were having problems. Most were injured during recent hostilities, but some dated back years.

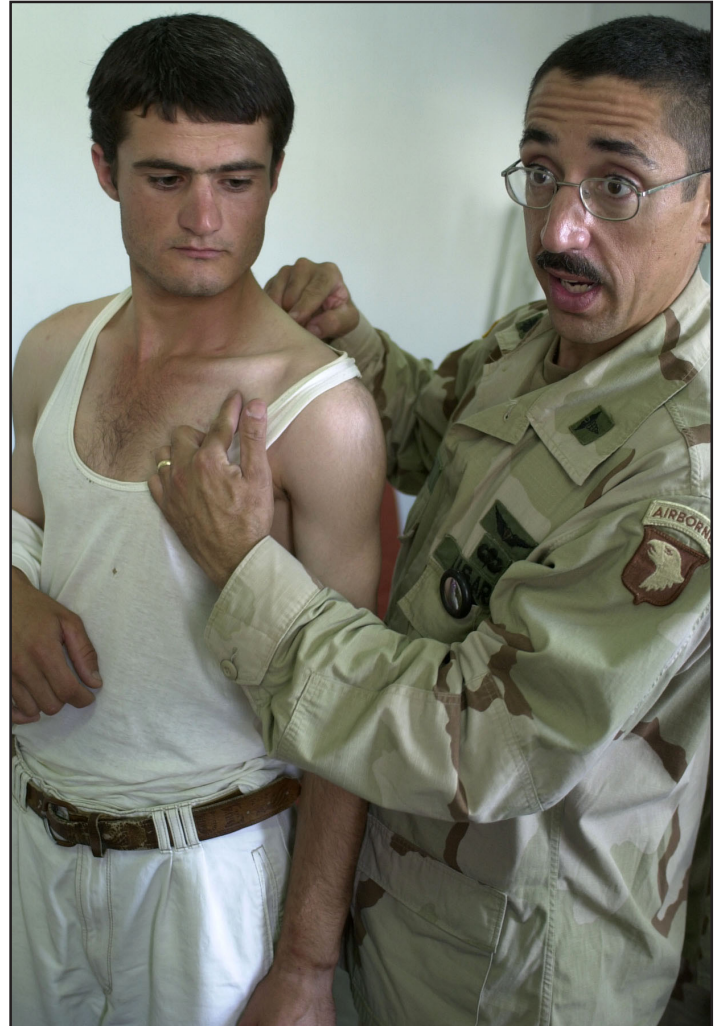
One soldier came in with a bullet wound to his lower leg. It had healed for the most part, but the bone was infected. "This guy has a good chance of losing his leg," Hurd said.

A handful of Army medics were also present to watch and get some hands-on experience.

"It's a great experience for my (medics). They usually just deal with trauma and don't get to see the whole process. Now they're seeing stuff they normally wouldn't get the opportunity to in the states."

Eventually, all the patients cycled through and received counsel from the Army doctors.

"We saw some pretty advanced cases today," Hurd said. "Hopefully the treatments we've recommended will help them get better."



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Lt. Col. Raul Marin, Company C, 526th Forward Support Battalion, examines a Peshmerga soldier who was shot through his upper left chest. Amazingly, the bullet spared his collar bone and vital organs, but damaged nerves which now limit the use of his left arm and hand.

Soldiers give Iraqi children gifts on National Vaccination Day

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion visited a children's health clinic June 22, to commemorate Iraq's National Vaccination Day. The troops presented gifts of small stuffed animals and candy to the children.

National Vaccination Day in Iraq is not a day when all the children get vaccinated; it is a day to emphasize the importance of immunizations, said Maj. Roger McDaniel of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. The clinics here give vaccinations free of charge, twice a week.

The 422nd CA assesses the needs of the clinic to help it function properly, said Staff Sgt. Robert Laverick, also of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Greensboro, N.C. One need,

according to Laverick, is that the refrigeration system at the Fakhir El Din Al Jamil clinic is unreliable because of the power failures in Baghdad's electricity.

The clinic practices preventive action against various diseases such as measles, mumps, tuberculosis, hepatitis, tetanus, and typhoid. They picked up their efforts after the war, when there was no running water or electricity in parts of Baghdad and other parts of Iraq.

"People need hygienic education, especially now," said Dr. Nada (first name withheld at her request), head of Fakhir El Din Al Jamil children's clinic.

However, only about 30 to 50 children are brought to the twice-a-week sessions at the clinic in Baghdad, the doctor said.

Because of the present circumstances, such as mass unemployment and lack of an Iraqi government, not enough people are visiting the clinic for treatment or education. But, Nada said, when things are back to normal again, she is confident more people will visit the clinic.

Hygienic education and classes are very important for Iraq, she said. In addition to the vaccinations, the clinic provides classes for parents and their children. According to Nada, classes should also air on television and radio in Iraq, emphasizing how important it is to practice good hygiene and avoid disease.

Contributed by
Spc. Anthony K. Reinoso
372nd MPAD

Man on the Street

What does freedom mean to you?



"The ability to do those things that make me happy."

- Capt. Chris Dube, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion



"Everyone is equal; there is no bias because of birth-right or money."

- Spc. Kieran Moore, 982nd Combat Camera Company

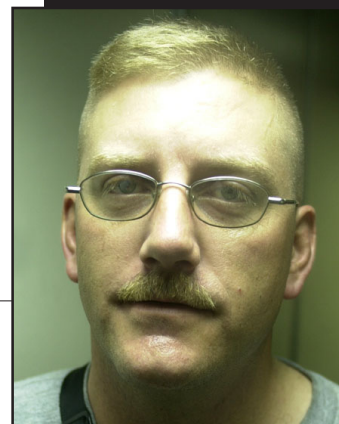
"Freedom means having the right to serve my country and to defend the choice of those who choose not to."

- 1st Lt. Darrel Pearman, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



"My daughter being able to do the stuff she wants to do when she grows up."

- Staff Sgt. Tracy Johnson, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



"The ability to walk down the street openly and not get shot at."

- Sgt. 1st Class Nelson Teeter, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



"The ability to live my life the way I want to, happy and prosperous."

- Pvt. Daniel Meacham, 982nd Combat Camera Company